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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the origin and development of the British Columbia provincial adult education organization during 1953-62. A series of biannual conferences for those interested in adult education began in late 1954. A more formal structure, the British Columbia Adult Education Council, was created in 1957 and continued until 1962, when it was replaced by the British Columbia Division of the Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE). The Council, run by a committee of eight representing a broad range of agencies and organizations, had been set up to coordinate individuals and organizations in adult education and to provide a clearinghouse for ideas. Among its activities had been seven semiannual meetings on liberal education, current trends in adult education, adult learning, public affairs education, the role of adult education, and correctional education. As set out in a CAAE annual meeting on June 2, 1962, functions of the new Division included providing special focus and leadership, information services and consultation, representing the CAAE in negotiations with other bodies, promoting adult educator training, increasing and diversifying the CAAE membership and financial base, and conducting special projects and research. (ly)

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TOWARD CO-OPERATION: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR ADULT EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1953 TO 1962

Gordon R. Selman

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The Department of University Extension, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, Canada, 1969

This Report was prepared by Gordon R. Selman, Director,
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ABOUT THE SERIES AND THIS PAPER

This is the third in a series of Occasional Papers being published by the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia. The purpose of the series is to make available to others in the field statements which are produced here at this university and are judged to be a useful contribution to the understanding, theory and practice of adult education.

This paper is written by Mr. Gordon Selman, the Director of the Extension Department and is an account of the origin and development of the provincial adult education organization in British Columbia in the decade 1953 to 1962. A series of biannual conferences for those interested in adult education began in late 1954. A more formal organization, the British Columbia Adult Education Council was created in 1957 and continued its activities until 1962, when it was replaced by a British Columbia Division of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. This paper gives an historical account of these events and evaluates the factors affecting the developments in British Columbia as well as the effect of events here on developments elsewhere in Canada. The author has described the interrelationship of activities at the provincial, regional and national levels.

It is hoped that this paper will be useful to those interested in the organizational aspects of adult education, and especially to those who are working in this field in Canada.

PREFACE

When it occurred to me that it might be useful to try to tell the story of the founding and evolution of the provincial adult education organization in B.C., two questions came to my mind at once: "Is it worth doing?" and "If so, am I the person to do it?"

I decided that the job was very much worth doing - for several reasons. The story is an interesting one, reflecting as it does both the changing patterns of adult education in B.C. during a decade of rapid growth and also regional and national influences. The account may be of special interest to those who have entered the field of adult education recently - or will do so in the future - and may wish to have some appreciation of where we have come from and by what means we reached the present stage of our development. Several of the key figures in the story are still available for consultation but are no longer actively involved in adult education in B.C. I felt that the history, if it was to be attempted, should be written soon.

But the story of this decade of developments in British Columbia has a meaning which goes beyond provincial boundaries. A number of factors which affected the direction of events in B.C. came from outside the province - particularly from elsewhere in the Western region, and from the national level of the Canadian association for Adult Education. It is also fair to say, I think, that some aspects of the development of the CAAE and of other provincial organizations were influenced by the leadership provided in British Columbia. So this account of events in B.C. is closely connected with developments elsewhere, and hopefully will be a useful contribution to regional and national histories of the field when they are written.

I am one of several people who participated in most of the events described in these pages. I joined the Extension Department

of the University of British Columbia in the fall of 1954, just in time to attend the organizational dinner which gave birth to the B.C. body. I served as part-time executive secretary of the organization from very early in its history until in 1962, when it was replaced by a provincial division of the CAAE. I was one of those who played an active part in many of the regional and national deliberations which affected local developments. Finally, I have previously done some historical writing about adult education in this province. There were several other persons who took part in these events who could probably have presented the story more effectively than I have done. Hopefully they will add their comments as opportunities permit. Many of those persons were most helpful to me as I was collecting information for this study.

I am grateful for the assistance I have received from a number of people. I have appended what I hope is a complete list of all those who helped in one way or another. I would like to make special mention, however, of Miss Anne Setchell, the Librarian and Information Officer of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, who searched the files of the CAAE and produced a number of invaluable items and excerpts from minutes. I also wish to thank Miss Genia Kaye, Mrs. Ria Rowe and Miss Pat Salt who helped with the preparation of the text.

Gordon Selman

October 1969

ORIGINS AND FIRST STAGES 1953 TO 1957

As in so many matters of this kind, it is not easy to trace the origin of the idea that a provincial organization should be formed in British Columbia to bring together those interested in the field of adult education. There had been an organization of this kind in Manitoba in the mid-thirties but it had not lasted very long.[1] In each province there was a potential nucleus for such an organization in the members of the Canadian Association for Adult Education who lived there. The national officers of the CAAE encouraged local initiative to this end whenever it appeared.[2] Indeed, one of those most involved in the developments in B.C. feels that the idea for an organization here came from the Executive Director of the CAAE, Dr. Roby Kidd.[3] Dr. Kidd himself remembers that Mrs. Rex Eaton of Vancouver, a prominent leader in voluntary associations in the area, was one of those most insistently urging the CAAE to encourage the creation of provincial or local branches.[4] A contemporary account of the eventual creation of an organization in B.C. makes reference to the fact that Mrs. Eaton had suggested such a move at a Western Regional Conference of the CAAE which was held in Banff on May 29, 1953.[5] One of the recommendations endorsed by that conference was that study should be given

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[1] See Selman, G.R., *A History of the Extension and Adult Education Services of The University of British Columbia 1915 to 1955*, unpublished M.A. thesis, U.B.C., 1963, p.230.

[2] Letter (Aug.26, 1969) J.R. Kidd to author.

[3] Letter (Sept.3, 1969) B.E. Wales to author.

[4] Letter (Aug.26, 1969) J.R. Kidd to author.

[5] Selman, G.R. "Mind Meets Mind in British Columbia," *Food For Thought*, Vol.16, No.3 (Dec.1955), p.121.

to "co-ordination of educational policies and programs in provinces and in local communities."[6] At least one of the principal figures in the formation of the B.C. group feels that Dr. John Friesen, the Director of the Extension Department at the University of British Columbia, was the main instigator.[7] On the other hand, there are those who feel that it was because the Extension Department at U.B.C. was thought by some to be receiving an undue share of the CAAE's services in B.C. that some of the other bodies were anxious to create a new provincial organization.[8] It is understandable that there should be these differing perceptions of the origins of the proposal.

It is clear, however, that no matter where the idea may have originated, Dr. Friesen was the key person in setting the wheels in motion. The formal organizational steps were initiated in the name of three agencies, the Community Programs Branch of the provincial Department of Education, the Adult Education Department of the Vancouver School Board and the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia. At least one of the key figures involved, Mr. Graham Bruce, who was Director of Adult Education for the School Board, recalls that it was Dr. Friesen who got the other parties moving. It was he who was best acquainted with the Canadian Association for Adult Education, who interested Mr. Bruce and Mr. L. J. Wallace of the Department of Education in the possibilities of a provincial organization and who negotiated on their behalf with the national body in connection with the plans that were being made.[9]

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[6] Attached to a memorandum, "Follow-Up of the Banff Conference," which was signed by Dr. Kidd. It was one of ten recommendations.

[7] Mr. Graham Bruce in an interview with the author, Aug.18,1969.

[8] Letter (Aug.26,1969), J.R. Kidd to author.

[9] Mr. Graham Bruce in an interview with the author, Aug.18,1969.

Dr. Friesen had indeed had longstanding contacts with the CAAE and was an active member. He was a close personal friend of the Executive Director, Dr. Kidd, and had been actively engaged in a variety of CAAE committees and projects. He had been engaged in adult education work in Manitoba, before coming to U.B.C. in the fall of 1953, and had known of the provincial adult education association which had existed there a few years earlier. He had also attended the Western Regional Conference in Banff in the spring of 1953. He recalls that he did make an effort to interest Mr. Bruce and Mr. Wallace in the idea of a provincial organization for B.C. and gave whatever assistance he could as their plans developed.[10] Dr. Kidd remembers that Dr. Bert Wales, then Assistant to Mr. Bruce at the School Board, and Mrs. Mary Roaf, the President of the Vancouver Community Arts Council, were also among those who helped to give leadership to the project at the early stages.[11]

On the basis of consultation among the people who were involved at the outset, it was decided in the summer of 1954 to invite Dr. Kidd to come to address a meeting of those in the province who were known to be interested in adult education, with the purpose in mind of creating some form of organization which could promote consultation and co-operation among the various agencies. Those who planned the meeting had very much in mind the model provided by the Joint Planning Commission (of the CAAE) at the national level. That organization brought together on a regular basis representatives of a wide variety of agencies and organizations involved in adult education work. It provided an opportunity for association, consultation and mutual stimulus; the organizational services were provided by one of the participating agencies (the CAAE); and it involved no loss of autonomy for anyone.

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[10] J. K. Friesen in an interview with the author, Sept.3,1969.

[11] Letter (Aug.26,1969), J. R. Kidd to author.

It was decided to proceed with the plans for the initial meeting in the names of these agencies (the School Board, the Department of Education and the Extension Department) rather than that of any one of them, and this partnership continued to function in various ways throughout the life of the organization which was created in subsequent months and which, with certain modifications continued in existence until 1962. Dr. Friesen, on behalf of the three, invited Dr. Kidd to address a dinner meeting which would be the occasion for launching a provincial organization. In consultation with Dr. Kidd, the date was set for September 23.

A great deal of careful work went into the planning for the inaugural dinner and the preparation of the invitation list. More than seventy persons attended the dinner representing some fifty public and private agencies. The Deputy-Minister of Education, Dr. J. F. K . English, was at the head table and spoke briefly about the importance of adult education. The major address was given by Dr. Kidd. In it he referred to the brief history of adult education as a movement and mentioned some notable programs in Canada which had contributed to the excellent international reputation which Canada enjoyed in this field. He referred to the "disorder and confusion" which existed as the various agencies went their own way. But he explained that this need not be the case.

> If there has been some competition of a wasteful kind this can be eliminated. What on the surface may appear to be duplication of effort, upon more rigorous examination is found to be complementary and supplementary service. The work of government departments, boards of education, the universities and the many voluntary societies can each support and re-inforce the others. With a better plan, building on merited goodwill between organizations, and with generous amount of give-and-take, comparative order and harmony can replace disorder and chaos.[12]

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[12] The address was published under the title "Trends and Problems in Canadian Adult Education" as Number 1 (September, 1954) in a series *Occasional Papers on Adult Education* published by the Extension Department, U.B.C., pp.2-3.

Dr. Kidd went on to describe the activities of the Joint Planning Commission, which was a vehicle for desired joint planning and co-ordination at the national level, and it seems obvious that he felt that model might be useful at the provincial level as well. Certainly his description of the J.P.C. as a body which had "no constitution and no test of membership except the willingness to participate" foreshadowed the sort of arrangement which was to be established in British Columbia. And the benefits which he described as resulting from the meetings of the J.P.C. were well selected to appeal to his B.C. audience.

Before the evening was over, those who attended the dinner recommended the organization of an informal "clearing house" for adult education bodies in British Columbia. They asked Mr. Bruce, Mr. Wallace and Dr. Friesen to form a representative committee whose task it would be to plan two or three meetings a year at which it would be possible "to exchange ideas" and where there would be "an opportunity for adult educators to get to know each other."[13]

The committee which was formed was for several years called the Continuing Committee on Adult Education and in addition to the three men already mentioned, the original members were Mrs. Donald Allardice, the President of the Vancouver Co-ordinating Council on Citizenship; Mrs. A.A. Shaw, representing the Women's Institutes of B.C.; Mrs. T. G. Currie, President of the B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation; and Mr. Knute Buttedahl of the Vancouver Joint Labor Committee.

The first Conference on Adult Education in British Columbia was held on December 1st, 1954, in the Library Building at U.B.C.[14]

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[13] This quotation from the introductory section of the report on the "First Conference on Adult Education in British Columbia." Future references will follow the pattern, Report on First Conference (Dec.1, 1954) p.1.

[14] See Report on First Conference (Dec.1,1954)

The main feature of the day was a series of three-minute reports on the activities of fifty organizations which were active in the field of adult education. This was very much in the pattern of the J.P.C. at the national level. The reports filled the morning and part of the afternoon and many of the delegates were amazed to learn of the amount and diversity of adult education that was going on in their own province, only a fraction of which they had known about.[15] The fifty reports included ten dealing with the work of federal or provincial agencies, including the National Film Board, the Citizenship Branch, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the B.C. Departments of Education and Agriculture, the University, the Provincial Gaol Service, and others. From the municipal level, school boards, public libraries and the Metropolitcan Health Committee gave accounts of their work.

> However, it was the variety and vigor of private organizations which most struck all those attending. The Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver Co-ordinating Council on Citizenship, Parent-Teacher Federation, Canadian Legion, Elizabeth Fry Society, Canadian Congress of Labor, YM and YWCA's, Provincial Council of Women, United Nations Association and the United Church are examples of the thirty-five private organizations which demonstrated both concern for, and directed their efforts toward adult education.16

Luncheon for the first conference was provided by the British Columbia Electric Company and a representative of that firm gave an address on "Education Within Industry." The balance of the afternoon was devoted to a discussion of educational aspects of "Citizenship." The judge of the Naturalization Court at Vancouver spoke first, followed by a panel made up of four newcomers to the country. Three agencies then described the services they provided for the benefit of recent immigrants. Finally a representative of the labor movement discussed the sensitive issue of organized labor's attitude toward the newcomer.

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15 G. R. Selman "Mind Meets Mind in British Columbia," *Food For Thought*, Vol.16, No.3 (Dec.1955) p.121.

16 Ibid. p.122

Although the foregoing would appear to have been a very heavy day - and some of those attending did express the hope that more time could be allowed for discussion at future meetings - there was nevertheless an excitement about this first conference which lent a special quality to the occasion.

The second provincial conference was held at Victoria College in the provincial capital on May 2nd of the following year. This meeting was planned by a committee made up of the original three men plus four other persons from the Victoria area, Mrs. Stella Gummow, the provincial organizer of the Women's Institutes; Mr. Willard Ireland, the Provincial Librarian and Archivist; Mr. Alex Turnbull of the Victoria School Board and Professor Robert Wallace of Victoria College. It was an indication of the significance attached to these conferences that although most provincial organizations had their headquarters in the Vancouver area, the attendance at the second meeting was approximately the same as at the first, sixty-eight.[17] The luncheon, which was sponsored by the Greater Victoria School Board was addressed by Dr. Harry Hickman, the Principal of Victoria College. An honored guest at lunch was the Minister of Education, the Hon. Ray Williston. It was apparent that these conferences were still being regarded as highly significant occasions.

The day began with three-minute statements on behalf of seven organizations which had not reported at the first conference. These were followed by a series of ten brief announcements from representatives of as many agencies about upcoming activities of interest. The two main themes of the day were "Leadership" and what was termed "Adult Education for Full Time Living," a topic which ran the gamut of the various segments of educational activity for adults. The emphasis was placed more on discussion - in plenary session and in small groups - than had been the case at the first conference and the post-meeting evaluation forms indicated that this was much appreciated. Once again, the day's program was rated very highly by those who attended.

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17 Report on Second Conference (May 2,1955) p.1.

Shortly after this second provincial conference, there was held in Saskatoon a Western Regional Conference of CAAE. Unlike the one held in 1953 and the one in 1957, this conference appears to have given little if any attention to the organizational side of adult education. It was attended by seventy-six delegates, (four of whom were from B.C., including Dr. Friesen and Mr. Gordon Selman, the Assistant Director of the U.B.C. Extension Department) and the program centered around the theme "Developing the Human Community." [18]

It was at some point in this period that Mr. Gordon Selman was made available by the Extension Department to be the organizing secretary for the provincial meetings. He had attended the inaugural dinner (having joined the staff of Extension on September 1, 1954) and the first two conferences; had been a member of the committee which under Mr. Knute Buttedahl's chairmanship had produced the report of the first conference; and had prepared the report of the second conference himself. He had supervised the printing and distribution of the conference reports. In the report of the third conference he was listed as a member of the planning committee and as "continuing secretary."

During the fall of 1955, Mr. Selman wrote an article for the journal of the CAAE which summed up the experience with the first two meetings and revealed that already there were adult educators in B.C. who were feeling that the semi-annual conferences, organized by ad hoc committees, were not adequately meeting the need for a provincial body to serve the field. The article, entitled "Mind Meets Mind in British Columbia," [19] after describing the founding of the provincial group and summarizing the first two conferences, made these comments:

> All who have participated in these conferences will agree, I believe, that they have been extremely valuable... However, without meaning to belittle these meetings in any way, a significant number of those taking part have

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[18] See the Conference Report published by the CAAE and "Western Regional Conference" in *Food For Thought*, Vol.16,No.1 (Sept.-Oct.1955) pp.5-8.

[19] In *Food For Thought*,Vol.16, No.3 (Dec.1955) pp.121-125.

> doubts about the future. They feel that the fine representation which has been attracted to the first two conferences will not continue to attend regularly if the meetings remain solely of the informational type. Civic and provincial organizations, especially private ones, have not the staff, and therefore do not have the time to send representatives to "interesting" meetings. They must be "important" ones. The gap is becoming evident, to some, between the interests of large and small organizations and between public and private ones.

This quotation identifies a feature of the adult education movement as a whole with which all organizations such as the CAAE and the B.C. provincial body have struggled - how to involve, and serve, at the same time both those who are professionally involved in adult education and those who are either involved as part-time volunteers or who simply wish to support the advancement of the adult education movement as something which is socially desirable. One of the features of the first two conferences in B.C. was the participation - in large numbers - of non-professional people. The quotation above would seem to indicate that at least some such people were by this time wanting the provincial group to "do something," besides hold periodic meetings. On the other hand, personnel from the large adult education agencies were gaining benefit from the opportunities provided by the conferences to establish and maintain communication with each other. The latter process often had very little connection with the substantive content of the meetings.

The article went on to describe the points of view about the future of the provincial organization which were being advanced by various persons. Some apparently felt that they should continue along the same lines, holding semi-annual conferences and that when and if the interest waned, the matter should just be dropped, to be raised again in the future when the need was felt. Others foresaw the periodic conferences continuing indefinitely, but perhaps only one per year, thus making less demand on the time of the participants.

A third point of view was that there was need for a body which was not just a meeting place for those in the field but one which would "fulfill the need for a co-ordinating agency." Others agreed with this view but felt that such a new organization should be more than that; it should undertake programming in its own name.

> Finally, there are those in British Columbia who see this series of conferences as the forerunner of a major step, that of the establishment of a provincial counterpart of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. Many feel that the CAAE cannot be as strong a force in the educational field as they would like to see it become until it can sink its roots even deeper into Canadian communities. A significant and proper move in this direction, they maintain, would be the creation of an information center and clearing house in the province, and ultimately, a provincial division of the CAAE.[20]

This last suggestion anticipated developments some six years in the future and in some respects went beyond what has ever been achieved at the provincial level.

Three more semi-annual conferences were held under the original organizational arrangements. In each case a planning committee was appointed for the occasion, the composition varying according to the location and topic to be discussed. Messrs.Wallace, Bruce, Friesen and Selman were continuing members. Dr. Friesen was chairman of the committee for the third conference, Commander C. H. Little, R.C.N., for the fourth, and Mrs. Rex Eaton for the fifth.

The third conference was held in the British Columbia Building of the Pacific National Exhibition (Vancouver) on November 30, 1955, and was attended by 66 delegates. The theme was "Communications in Adult Education" and speakers dealt with various aspects of the broadcasting media, film, the printed word, and publicity and public relations. The day's program included the usual group of brief announcements from the participating agencies, a tour of the building, and a

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20 In *Food For Thought*, Vol.16, No.3 (Dec.1955)p.124.

luncheon provided by the Exhibition. A new note was injected into the discussions when it was suggested that there was need for a "news sheet which would give all adult education organizations an opportunity to make their program known." [21] The suggestion was referred to the continuing committee.

The fourth conference was smaller in attendance than any of the previous ones, perhaps partly because it was held on Vancouver Island, at Royal Roads Military College. It was held on May 14, 1956, and was attended by 44 persons. The morning, following the usual announcements, was given over to a panel discussion and question period on "What the Armed Forces are Doing about Adult Education." Luncheon was provided by the hosts and the Commandant of Royal Roads, Captain J. A. Charles, C.D., R.C.N., spoke after lunch on "Problems of Adult Education." Following a tour of the college, the conference turned to consideration of the suggestion that had been made at the previous meeting, that a newsletter of some sort should be published. The matter was introduced by a panel of speakers and then discussed in small groups. The conference report indicates the outcome of the deliberations.

> Reports from the groups revealed general agreement that an experimental newsletter should be published; that it should be issued four times a year; that the number of copies should be limited to keep costs at a minimum; that agencies should be invited to reprint materials of interest to them; and, that an editorial committee appointed for a year should assemble material and look after publication of the newsletter. Following this decision, it was announced that for the first year the copies would be printed and costs of publishing met by the B.C. Community Programmes Branch and by the Vancouver School Board. Names of persons suggested for the editorial board, were Mr. A. Thiessen, Community Programmes Director for Vancouver, Mr. Stan Evans, B.C.T.F., Miss Marjorie Smith, University Extension Department, and Mr. J. H. Dalgliesh, Victoria School Board.[22]

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21 Report on Third Conference (Nov.30,1955) p.11.

22 Report on Fourth Conference (May 14, 1956) p.9.

The story of the newsletter, in so far as it can be determined, can be told briefly. The only issues that were produced were edited by Mr.Stan Evans of the B.C. Teachers' Federation and paid for by his organization, not the other two mentioned above.[23] The newsletter was entitled *News and Views in B.C. Adult Education* and vol. 1 no. 1 appeared remarkably soon, being dated May 1956. It was four pages in length, with two columns to a page. The first section was headed "Coming Events" and listed courses, exhibitions, etc. which were scheduled for the summer. (This included, incidentally, the first credit course in adult education which had ever been offered at U.B.C., to be taught by Dr. Roby Kidd.) Other items dealt with pamphlets and journals of interest to those working in adult education.

This first issue of the newsletter is the only one which can be located. It is not known how many issues actually appeared. Mr. Evans feels that "there may have been two or three more issues of *News and Views*, but certainly not many more. The project appears to have been conceived with considerable enthusiasm, but died in its early youth." [24] On October 10 of the same year, Mr. Evans sent a notice out to the mailing list asking for items to be sent in for publication. It would appear from the minutes of the conference held in late November that a second edition had been published, but no details are provided,[25] and there is no further reference to it in subsequent reports.

The fifth conference was held at the offices of the Vancouver School Board on November 28, 1956,and was attended by 52 delegates. After the usual brief announcements from various organizations, the conference turned to the day's scheme, "Vocational Training in British Columbia." A panel of speakers dealt with various aspects of the topic and at lunch, Mr. Bert Beck, a union official and regular

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23 Letter (Sept.11,1969) Mr. Stan Evans to author.

24 Ibid.

25 Report on Fifth Conference (Nov.28, 1956) p.10.

participant in the conferences, spoke on "Organized Labor's Attitude towards Adult Education." Luncheon was provided by the Vancouver School Board and the Chairman of the Board spoke briefly to the meeting.

A substantial length of time was given at this meeting to conference business. Mention has already been made of the newsletter, which was discussed. There was also a proposal that a directory of member organizations be prepared and three members were named to a committee which was to make recommendations to the next conference. (There is no record of this having been done.) The item which took the most time, however, dealt with the organization of the conference and its possible relationship to the CAAE. An account of these discussions belong more properly in the next section.

FORMING THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ADULT EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CAAE, Dr. Orville Ault, happened to be in Vancouver on business at the time of the fifth conference. He attended the meeting for the latter part of the day and brought greetings from the national organization. He spoke of the great interest the CAAE took in the B.C. conference and said that the CAAE greatly needed the support of such local groups. What happened next is perhaps best revealed by the minutes.

> Mr. Robb Wilson[26] raised the question of whether it was not time for a more formal organization of the semi-annual conferences. He suggested a committee to bring in a recommendation as to name, terms of reference, and office facilities. The discussion which followed brought out several points, including the possibility of affiliation with the CAAE.
>
> Motion (Evans - Gummow)
>
> That Messrs. Graham Bruce, Laurie Wallace and Dr. Friesen be named a committee with powers to add to consider the general organization of the conference, including name, terms of reference, office requirements and relationships with the CAAE.
>
> Carried.[27]

It can be seen from this that the organizers of the original dinner were still looked to for leadership when basic questions about the future of the organization were under consideration.[28]

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26 B.C. representative of the Current Affairs Bureau, D.N.D.

27 Report on Fifth Conference (Nov.28, 1956) p.10.

28 A brief account of the events, beginning at the fifth conference and culminating at the next one may be found in G. Selman, "Western Variations on a Theme," *Food For Thought*, Vol.18, No.1 (Sept.-Oct.1957) pp.5-9.

The CAAE at the national level had followed developments in B.C. and the other regions closely. In the previous June, Dr. Kidd had submitted to the National Council (the chief governing body of the CAAE) a "Memorandum on Regional Participation in the Management of CAAE," which had outlined a number of possibilities for more effective liaison with the regions, including opening regional offices, appointing a travelling staff member who would spend time in each region, and appointing more regional representations to the National Council. The discussion of the matter was inconclusive and the chairman asked anyone who had opinions on the subject to submit them in writing.[29] At the Executive meeting on September 20, Mr. Gordon Hawkins (the Acting Director of CAAE while Dr. Kidd was on a technical assistance mission in the West Indies) raised the matter again and stated that "the development of more extensive regional activities was considered essential ...." He expressed the hope that funds could be raised from a foundation to help make that possible.[30] Just a week after the B.C. conference had decided to set up its committee, Mr. Hawkins reported again to the Executive. He said that on the basis of visits he had recently made to both the Maritimes and the the West, he saw different patterns emerging in the two regions. The Maritimes wished to set up a regional council to facilitate consultation among themselves. In the West "there was a desire for a greater change, i.e. a direct relationship between the West and the National Council, rather more on a provincial basis." [31]

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[29] Minutes of CAAE National Council June 10-11, 1956.

[30] Minutes of CAAE Executive Sept. 20, 1956.

[31] Minutes of CAAE Executive, Dec. 6, 1956.

By the time the National Council met a month later, in early January, 1957, thinking about this matter had advanced to a further stage. After hearing Mr. Hawkins' report on the situation, and discussing the matter at some length, it was decided to give serious consideration to "the basis for regional and other types of representation on the National Council, with a view to making any changes in the constitution that may be necessary." [32]

These developments set the stage for two significant meetings which were to determine the character of the B.C. body and its relationship with the national organization. The first of these was the sixth B.C. conference and the second was the biennial Western Regional Conference held in Banff later the same month. It is clear that the CAAE was actively searching for an appropriate formula to accommodate the provincial and regional bodies, and was ready to act on the matter.

The sixth B.C. conference was held at U.B.C. on May 13, 1957, and was attended by 58 delegates. Mr. Hawkins and Miss Diana Ironside of the CAAE staff took part in the meeting, as did two non-staff persons who were active in CAAE affairs, Mr. Alex Sim of the Citizenship Branch, Ottawa, and Rev. Andre Renaud, O.M.I. of the University of Ottawa (a leading figure in a CAAE project, the National Commission for the Indian Canadian).[33] The theme for the day was citizenship. Mr. Hawkins gave an address on "What do we expect of the good citizen?" and this was later studied by four discussion groups. After lunch (which was provided this time by the B.C. Telephone Co.) a panel of speakers discussed "the efforts being made to educate for better citizenship, the gaps in such services, and the new programs being

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[32] Minutes of CAAE National Council, Jan.5, 1957.

[33] This body later became independent of the CAAE as The Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada.

developed in this field." [34] Mr. Sim and Mr. Hawkins took part in this discussion.

The business session in the afternoon was longer than usual. Miss Ironside described the services which the CAAE could provide to local chapters of organizations. Father Renaud then was invited to describe the National Commission for the Indian Canadian, which had begun its operations shortly before. Dr. Friesen then delivered a report on behalf of the committee which had been appointed at the previous conference. According to the conference report, the following recommendations were made, and after considerable discussion, were approved.

1. Name: "B.C. Adult Education Council"

2. Purpose: To hold semi-annual conferences for the purpose of:

   - making it possible for organizations and individuals in the field of adult education to keep in touch with each other
   - providing a clearing house of ideas in the field of adult education

3. Structure: The affairs of the Council will be managed by a committee of eight members:

   1. representing the Department of Education
   2. representing the Vancouver School Board
   3. representing the Extension Department, U.B.C.
   4. the executive secretary, who will be drawn from the Extension Department.
   5.-8. four members representing the broad range of adult education agencies and organizations in B.C. These four will have two year terms on the Committee with two retiring each year. Nominations for these four members will be made by the Committee and the elections will be held at the spring conference each year.

It was further noted that the Council "should continue on its present

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[34] Report on Sixth Conference (May 13, 1957) p.1.

highly informal basis." [35]

The acceptance of these recommendations was an indication that those who were taking part in the conferences did feel that something more formal in the way of organizational arrangements was required. At the same time, there was obviously a desire to retain certain features of the previous arrangements. The position of the three original organizers of the group was preserved by giving them "permanent seats" on the Executive Committee. The Extension Department was to continue to provide the "executive secretary." And finally, there was no wish to give up the "highly informal basis" on which the organization had been run.

After the constitutional arrangements were accepted, it was then necessary to select the four elected members of the Committee. Four persons were nominated and elected unanimously: for two year terms, Mrs. Pearl Steen, representing the Council of Women and Mr. Rob Wilson of D.N.D.; for one year terms, Mrs. W. V. McDonald of the B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation and Mr. Wm. Ellis, representing the Vancouver Community Arts Council.

There remained for consideration the matter of the Council's relationship to the CAAE. Mr.Selman made this part of the report and indicated that in the view of the committee there should be no formal connection between the provincial body and the CAAE. During the discussion that followed Mr. Hawkins indicated that the CAAE's committee on the constitution had worked out a tentative formula for "affiliation" of such provincial bodies and that he expected the matter to be discussed fully at the Western Regional Conference at Banff later in the month. It was in the end resolved that further consideration of the relationship between the two organizations be deferred until after the Banff meeting.

The Western Regional Conference, unlike its predecessor in 1955, spent most of its time on organizational matters. During

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[35] Report on Sixth Conference (May 13, 1957) p.7.

the two day meeting (May 20 and 21) representatives from all four provinces described how matters stood in their regions with respect to provincial adult education organizations and to the thinking about relationships with the CAAE.[36] Each of the other three provinces had also held conferences in May, although Manitoba, with its Joint Planning Commission, was the only one that had an ongoing organization.

The conference set up a "model" of a provincial adult education body which delegates were invited to take back to their own provinces for possible application there. The model resembled the recently-created Council in British Columbia in most respects, although its aims included, in addition to the clearing house function, that of undertaking studies and projects "related to co-ordination and development." The model organization was also seen as "giving form to a national and international movement for adult education."

It was in the area of relationships to the national organization where the meeting was of particular significance for future developments in B.C. The "model" called for a choice between two arrangements; that the provincial body would either be an "affiliate body" of the CAAE, or that the CAAE members in the province would elect the National Council members representing their area. During the meeting, a committee made up of Dr. Friesen, Mr. Hawkins and Dr. W. B. Baker (then Director of the Center for Community Studies in Saskatchewan) was asked to draw up a statement defining what was meant by " affiliation." The committee report was discussed by the meeting but not approved formally. The statement was accepted as a useful working definition and the provincial delegations were invited to make whatever use of it was helpful and appropriate. The "definition" of affiliation read as follows:

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36 For accounts of these developments, see Report on CAAE Western Regional Conference, May 20-21, 1957, and G.Selman, "Western Variations on a Theme," *Food For Thought*, Vol.18, No.1 (Sept.-Oct. 1957) pp.5-9.

1. A class of relationship to the CAAE to which may belong provincial or regional councils/commissions/committees whose function it would be to provide a means of communication between the CAAE and provincial or regional adult education affairs.

2. The affiliated body would be responsible for ensuring (by means of its own contriving) that the provincial members of the National Council of CAAE be duly nominated.

3. The affiliated body shall be entitled to have its own representatives on the National (sic) on the basis of one ex-officio member per province. This shall be in addition to the present representation.

4. The affiliated body shall be responsible for ensuring that at least one member per province (elected or ex-officio) attends meetings of the National Conference (sic).

5. The affiliated body shall be entitled, if it chooses, to advertise the fact of affiliation on letterhead and other means of exhibition.

This was to be the basis for the arrangements accepted by the B.C. Council and for subsequent changes in the CAAE constitution.

Another three man committee made up of representatives from B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba, was given the task of preparing a draft statement on the possible functions, structure and activities of a proposed Western Regional organization of CAAE. Their report was discussed and in the end a resolution passed to the effect:

> that further consideration be given to the ultimate formation of some form of Western Regional Organization at the 1959 Regional Conference and that an interim committee be set up by CAAE from the four Western provinces to plan, among other things, the next regional conference.

A number of other matters were discussed at the Banff meeting,including in-service professional training for adult educators, but the details are not relevant here.

Approximately two weeks later, Mr. Hawkins reported on these

developments to the National Council of the CAAE. It was agreed there that appropriate changes in the constitution should be made and should be prepared in time to be considered by the annual meeting of the Association the following year.[37] The matter was discussed further by the Executive in late October and the committee working on the matter was instructed to continue its work.[38] The resulting constitutional changes were approved by the annual meeting held in May, 1958. They followed the lines set out at Banff, providing for affiliate bodies on a provincial or regional basis (to be approved on the recommendation of the Executive Committee), which could nominate the persons from its jurisdiction who were to run for election to the National Council, and were also "entitled to have a representative on the Council in addition to those elected by direct mail ballot within the province or region." [39] Both Mr. Alan Thomas (see below) and Mr. Selman took part in the discussions about this matter at the annual meeting and it is interesting to note that both sought (and received) assurances that in approving this measure the meeting was not precluding the possibility at a later date of the creation of provincial divisions or chapters of CAAE.

In the meantime, a further semi-annual conference had been held in British Columbia. The first to be held under the name of the B.C. Adult Education Council, it met on November 27, 1957, at the building of the B.C. Teachers' Federation. It was perhaps an indication of the new interest engendered by the provincial body being put on a more formal basis that there were 75 delegates present. Following the customary announcements, the conference turned to the theme of the day, liberal education. The main address was given by Mr. Alan Thomas.

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37 Minutes of CAAE National Council (June 8, 1957).

38 Minutes of CAAE Executive (Oct.29,1957). Committee members were Dr. Orville Ault (chairman of the Executive), Mr. Bert Hepworth, Mr. Ted Sheffield and Mr. Hawkins.

39 From the constitution as approved at the annual meeting of CAAE on May 23, 1958.

Mr. Thomas had that fall taken up a joint appointment in the Extension Department and the Faculty of Education at U.B.C. He had formerly been a staff member at the CAAE in Toronto and was to be a key figure in the future development of the provincial organization in B.C. The morning was given over to a discussion of the nature of liberal education and the first part of the afternoon to an examination of various kinds of liberal education programs. The luncheon was sponsored by the Extension Department and the speaker was Mr. Wallace, who had been named chairman of the B.C. Centennial Committee, and who talked about the plans that were being made for the celebration of that event.

The business meeting of the conference reflected deliberations which had been held at Banff some months before. The Executive put before the meeting a restatement of the "constitution" of the Council. It followed very closely the "model" which had been prepared at Banff. The "aims" of the organization were expanded to read as follows:

(a) Personal contact between adult educators.

(b) Clearing house between organizations and programs.

(c) Explore problems and possibly undertake projects related to co-ordination and development.

(d) Giving form to a national and international movement for adult education.[40]

Two new sections were added:

Participants

(a) All provincial and some large community organizations in adult education (and national counterparts)

(b) All members of CAAE (organizational and individual)

Relationships to CAAE

(a) An affiliate body to the CAAE

(b) Members of the CAAE elect National Council Members.

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40 Report on Seventh Conference (Nov.27,1957) p.5.

It can be seen from this that the conclusions which had been reached at Banff the previous May were endorsed by the Executive of the B.C. group and were written directly into the terms of reference of the B.C. Adult Education Council. This "completed" the structure of the provincial organization and it was to remain in that form until in 1962 the Council was replaced by a provincial division of the national body.

ACTIVITIES OF THE B.C. ADULT EDUCATION COUNCIL 1957 TO 1961

Between the formation of the Council in May, 1957, and the special conference held in May of 1961, which was to move things in a different direction, seven semi-annual meetings were held as follows:

Seventh	Nov.23, 1957, B.C.T.F. Building, Vancouver Theme: Liberal Education	75 delegates
Eighth	May 14, 1958, Vancouver Public Library Themes: The Economic System Current Trends in Adult Education	50 delegates
Ninth	Nov.20, 1958, B.C. Electric Building, Vancouver Theme: Factors Influencing Adult Learning	70 delegates
Tenth	May 15, 1959, University of B.C. Theme: The Role of Adult Education in Public Affairs	60 delegates
Eleventh	Nov. 23, 1959 (evening), University of B.C. Theme: Trends in Adult Education	30 delegates
Twelfth	May 6, 1960, Vancouver Public Library Theme: The Informed Citizen Acts: What Role for Adult Education?	40 delegates
Thirteenth	Nov.28, 1960, Haney Correctional Institution Themes: The Adult Education Movement and the National Conference. The Educational Activities of the Haney Correctional Institution.	57 delegates

Rather than attempt to summarize the conferences in turn, developments over the three years will be grouped under four headings, which will facilitate carrying certain topics through the period.

1. The Conference Programs

As will be seen by the list above, the themes dealt with by the seven conferences during this period varied widely. The selection of the topics to be dealt with was no easy matter because of the diversity of interests in the group. The objective was to

select topics which were at the same time specific enough to make it possible to deal with them in the few hours available and yet be broad enough to engage the interest of at least a major proportion of the "membership." As will be seen from the figures above, there was some dropping off in attendance during the program year 1959-60, but on the whole the participation in the conferences stayed at a fairly good level.

The programs utilized a combination of local and "imported" speakers. Dr. Roby Kidd and his successor (as of May, 1961) as Director of the CAAE, Mr. Arthur Piggott, were featured speakers, as was Dr. Abbot Kaplan, the Associate Director of the Extension Division of the University of California. Other speakers who lived in British Columbia but who did not ordinarily take part in the conferences included Dr. David Corbett of U.B.C. and Dr. Reid Elliott of Victoria College, both of whom gave major addresses, as well as others such as Dr. Gordon Shrum (U.B.C.), Mr. Vic Waters (broadcaster), Miss Evelyn Caldwell (writer on consumer affairs), Mr. George Cunningham (city alderman), Mr. James Wilson (city planner), and Mr. Elmer Helm (social worker). Dr. Coolie Verner addressed a dinner meeting in the fall of 1959 while he was a visiting professor at U.B.C. Mr. Alan Thomas's name appeared frequently on the programs during the period.

In addition to the discussion of the theme of the day, there were always the usual announcements period during which organizations could draw attention to current activities, a business session, and sometimes a luncheon speaker, or introductions of foreign or other visitors who happened to be in the area at the time of the meeting. On one occasion the guest was Dr. Neville Scarfe, the newly appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education at U.B.C.

2. The Organization of the Council

The "constitution" which was adopted in the spring of 1957 provided for an Executive Committee of eight members made up of Messrs.

Wallace, [41] Bruce and Friesen, the "founding fathers," plus an executive secretary provided by the Extension Department. Mr. Gordon Selman continued in that capacity throughout the period, becoming "secretary-treasurer" in the spring of 1959 when the financial side of the Council's activities began and a bank account was opened. As has already been mentioned, Mrs. Steen and Mr. Wilson were elected in May of 1957 for two year terms on the Executive and Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ellis were elected for one year terms. Subsequent elections for two year terms were as follows:

1958	Mrs. W. V. McDonald and Mr. Roy Brookbank
1959	Mrs. Pearl Steen and Mr. James Patterson
1960	Mr. Roy Brookbank and Mr. William Tippett Mrs. W. V. McDonald (to complete term of Mr. Patterson, who had left the city.)

The Executive typically met three or four times a year to conduct the business of the Council. On some occasions it planned the semi-annual conference, leaving details to Mr. Selman and one of the other members. On other occasions a sub-committee was appointed and charged with the responsibility of organizing the conference on a particular theme. At the conference in May of 1958, Dr. Friesen announced that Mrs. Steen had been elected by the Executive in January as its Chairman. Mrs. Steen, who was widely experienced in a variety of community activities, remained in that capacity throughout the life of the Council.[42] Mr. Rob Wilson was elected deputy chairman, but there is no indication that this position was filled beyond Mr. Wilson's term of office.

The financial affairs of the Council should be mentioned briefly. At the outset, whatever costs were incurred were covered by the three original sponsors. This included mailing, the printing of the reports and other incidental costs. The luncheons were sponsored by various organizations. When the Council was created in

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[41] Dr. Bert Wales replaced Mr. Bruce on his retirement in 1959 and Mr. James Panton replaced Mr. Wallace in the same year.

[42] Her contributions were subsequently recognized when she was made an honorary life member of the national CAAE.

May, 1957, no provision was made for a treasurer and the organization had no accounts. When, in the following November, the functions of the organization were further elaborated, a motion was passed instructing the Executive to consider the matter of dues and to report back to the next meeting.[43] At the next meeting the Executive recommended - and the conference formally approved -

> That there be an annual organizational membership fee of $5.00 and that in addition delegates to the conference pay enough at the time of the registration to cover the cost of the luncheon.

It was explained that the fees would be used to cover such costs as "stationery, expenses of guest speakers, coffee, assistance for our delegates to the National Council." [44] There were apparently some second thoughts about the wisdom and practicality of this course of action because Mrs. Steen brought the matter up again at the next meeting and this time it was decided instead to charge those who attended the conference $1.00 over and above the cost of the luncheon.[45] At subsequent conferences, Mr.Selman made a report on the state of the Council's finances. The funds were kept in a separate account at the University. The last treasurer's report that is recorded was given to the Thirteenth Conference in November, 1960. It was reported that prior to that conference, there was a credit balance in the amount of $148.65.[46]

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[43] Report on Seventh Conference (Nov.27, 1957) p.5.

[44] Report on Eighth Conference (May 14,1958) p.7.

[45] Report on Ninth Conference (Nov.20,1958) p.7.

[46] Report on Thirteenth Conference (Nov.28,1960) p.6.

3. Relations with the CAAE

The Council's relationship with the CAAE became complicated during this period because not only did the B.C. body have its own representative on the National Council and play a role in selecting the B.C. members of that body, but during this period also, the national organization appointed a "B.C. Committee" which overlapped with the Council's Executive in membership and carried out certain national functions.

Following the Banff conference of 1957 and the subsequent amendment of the CAAE's constitution, the B.C. Council had representation on the National Council. At the conference in November, 1958, it was agreed that the Chairman of the B.C. Executive would normally be the Council's representative except (as was then the case) he or she was already a member of the national Council. Dr. Wales, Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Selman were nominated and Mr. Selman elected to serve until the following spring. At that time, Dr. Wales was elected in this capacity and a year later Mr. Selman was named again.

The next major event affecting relations with the CAAE was the Western Regional Conference held in Regina in late May of 1959. Mr.Selman had been a member of the planning committee for the meeting and of the 32 delegates, four were from B.C., all of them - Mrs. Steen, Dr. Friesen, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Selman - active in the B.C. Council. This conference was devoted to an examination of the CAAE, its structure and activities, the organization of adult education in Western Canada and the professional training of adult educators. Mr. Selman gave a paper at the meeting on "CAAE Organization in Western Canada" and served as secretary to the work group which discussed and made recommendations on this topic. In his statement he reviewed developments (especially in B.C.) since the last biennial conference in Banff (which had prepared a model provincial organization and defined affiliation with the CAAE) and indicated that although what was being done was useful there were certain functions which could not be performed on a provincial basis because of the nature of the organizations. They were informal,

clearing house, non-membership organizations and could not respond to such challenges as taking a stand on matters of public policy or soliciting memberships for the CAAE.[47] He recommended that the CAAE National Council members in each province be constituted a provincial committee or executive to undertake such activities on behalf of CAAE at the provincial level. He also raised the issue as to whether provincial divisions of the CAAE should be created; indicated that such a possibility had been discussed "once or twice" by the B.C. Executive; but concluded that the proposal was perhaps premature. He suggested that the provincial executive group he had proposed "would be a useful intermediate step." [48] He also suggested that it might be advisable to think in terms of a prairie regional group within CAAE, making it clear that he didn't feel that British Columbia would see itself fitting into such a regional grouping. Finally, he raised the idea of a Western Regional office of the CAAE.

The work group, in its report, covered many of these points: it reaffirmed the usefulness of the provincial Council idea and the model worked out at Banff; called upon the CAAE to constitute the National Council members in each province as a "provincial executive of the CAAE" and that a member of that group be an ex-officio member of the executive of the provincial Council; suggested that the new provincial executives take joint responsibility for developing Western Regional affairs; and recommended that new means be found to subsidize the travel costs of Western Council members in attending National Council meetings.[49] These recommendations were all accepted by the conference.

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[47] These examples were drawn from real experiences of the B.C. Council. See G. Selman "CAAE Organization in Western Canada," in *Report of Proceedings* of Western Regional Conference of CAAE, Regina, May 22-23, 1959, pp.8-15.

[48] Ibid. p.11.

[49] Ibid. pp.13-15. These were the most significant, but not all of the recommendations.

In early September, Dr. Kidd reported the general conclusions of the conference to the Executive of the CAAE and spoke as if the appointment of the new provincial executives was already established policy; indeed he said that the Saskatchewan group had already met.[50] The only mention of the committee set up in B.C. was in the report of the provincial conference in November 1960. It was stated that the conference had been planned by the B.C. Council Executive jointly with the CAAE Executive in B.C. (and that these two groups were also working on the special conference to be held in May of 1961.)[51]

Although the constitution of the CAAE had been revised in the summer of 1958 in order to accommodate provincial and regional developments, things were moving so quickly that in December, 1959, the national Executive once again instructed its committee on the constitution to "watch the development of provincial adult education committees for possible implications for the constitution of the CAAE." [52] No substantial changes were made, however, until 1962.

It is also clear from the reports of the B.C. conferences during the period that the occasion of the conferences was being used much more actively than before to encourage people to take out a membership in the CAAE. Mr. Stan Evans and Dr. Friesen made appeals of this kind at different times.

4. Other Council Activities

There was one incident in the life of the B.C. Adult Education Council which revealed that there were different views

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[50] Minutes of CAAE Executive Sept.8, 1959.

[51] Report on Thirteenth Conference (Nov.28,1960) p.6.

[52] Minutes of CAAE Executive, Dec. 4, 1959.

of its proper functions. At the conference held in November of 1957, although it was not related to the topic of the day, the suggestion was made that the Council should undertake a study on "the problem of the re-training of workers." During the business session it was formally resolved that a committee should be set up for that purpose under the chairmanship of Mr. Jo Miyazawa, then of the International Woodworkers of America, who had attended several of the conferences. The motion was put by Mr. Alan Thomas and seconded by Mr. Buttedahl (who had by this time joined the staff of the Extension Department).[53] At the next conference the matter was not on the agenda of the business meeting and when it was raised, the meeting was advised that the Executive had considered the matter at one of its meetings and had decided that the proposed committee "was not within the Council's terms of reference." It had therefore advised interested organizations to be in direct touch with Mr. Miyazawa and see what could be arranged separately. Mr. Miyazawa, however, had indicated that he was not willing to proceed on that basis. The meeting, after hearing this report (and an apology from the Secretary that the matter had not been put on the agenda) registered its disagreement with the Executive and once more passed a resolution calling for the creation of the committee under the auspices of the B.C. Council, this time appointing Mr. Miyazawa (chairman), Mr. Thomas and Mr. Brookbank as members, with power to add.[54]

This incident revealed two facts of some significance. The first was that there were differences of view concerning the proper role of the Council. (It may be significant that the Executive, which contained some of the founders of the provincial organization, had a narrower view of its role - perhaps a carryover from the pre-1957 period - than did some other members.) The other matter to be

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[53] Report on Seventh Conference (Nov.27,1957) p.6.

[54] Report on Eighth Conference (May 14,1958) p.8.

noted is that to the extent that the B.C. Council as then constituted was not a satisfactory vehicle for carrying out projects of this kind, then this no doubt led some people to feel that a different kind of provincial organization was needed.

The subsequent activities of the committee on the re-training of workers can be described briefly. At the next conference, Mr.Thomas gave a brief progress report, stating that the committee was still defining its area of operation. At the conference in May of 1959, Mr. Thomas reported again, saying that the committee had met with representatives of several interested organizations (government, industry and educational institutions) and now requested that the Executive of the B.C. Council "consider the possibility of sponsoring a conference on this subject." There was no further mention of the matter in subsequent reports.

One other aspect of the Council's activities might be mentioned. It is clear from the report of the conference held in November of 1960 that the Council was playing a part in other educational projects. Mr. Selman reported having represented the Council at a recent meeting on citizenship matters. Mr. Stan Evans indicated that the "B.C. Council on Education" was being reconstituted and he invited the B.C. Adult Education Council to take part. The meeting instructed its Executive to name an official representative.[55]

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[55] Report on Thirteenth Conference (Nov.28,1960) p.7.

CONFERENCE ON "ADULT EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: THE NEXT DECADE"

MAY 1961

As far as timing was concerned, this conference formed part of the regular series of semi-annual meetings and could be seen as the fourteenth of the series. There were, however, a number of special circumstances surrounding the meeting in that it related closely to national developments in the adult education movement and also charted a new course for the B.C. body. This new course involved basic changes in the nature of the provincial organization and led to changes in the structure of the CAAE as well.

In the spring of 1960, it was suggested during the business session of the regular meeting that some attention needed to be given to the functions of the semi-annual conferences.[56] The response of the Executive to this request was tied in with plans which by then were being made by the CAAE and its French-language counterpart, the I.C.E.A. [57] for a "National Conference on Adult Education" (which was seen as a successor to a similar one held in 1943), to be held in Ottawa in late October and early November of 1961. So by the time of the next B.C. conference, in November of 1960, the Executive was thinking in terms of a special provincial conference to be held six months hence which would at the same time decide on the future of the B.C. organization and as well lead up to the National Conference.[58]

In anticipation that the B.C. group would approve the holding of a special provincial conference, the Executive of the B.C. Council, in co-operation with the CAAE B.C. Executive, arranged for Mr. Arthur Piggott, the Assistant Director of the CAAE (and soon to be the Director) to take part in the conference held in November

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[56] Report on Twelfth Conference (May 6, 1960) p.8.

[57] Institut Canadien d'Education des Adultes.

[58] Other provincial or regional conferences leading up to the National Conference were held at Banff, Regina, Winnipeg, Guelph, Montreal and Antigonish.

of 1960. At that time Mr. Piggott described the purposes of the National Conference and the planning steps which had been taken. He explained that what was intended was a conference which would examine the role of adult education in society in the next decade. It would then be up to the CAAE in the light of all this to re-examine its goals, functions and priorities. He expressed the hope that those in B.C. who were interested in the field of adult education would assist the National Conference by conducting their own study of the major questions involved and preparing statements about them. Mr. Alan Thomas followed Mr. Piggott and led a discussion on the plans for the special May conference. He called for suggestions as to topics that should be discussed. The conference report sums up the final decisions:

> It was approved that a number of commissions be set up in the subsequent weeks, each of which would be responsible for preparing a statement on some assigned aspect of adult education for consideration at the May conference. Some of the topics mentioned as possibilities for the commissions were:
>
> 1. Adult education in industry.
> 2. What provincial organization(s) in adult education for British Columbia?
> 3. Financial support for adult education and the CAAE.
> 4. Canada's role in assistance to adult education at the international level.
> 5. Standards and measurement in adult education.
> 6. The role of voluntary organizations.[59]

During the business session later in the day, the conference gave formal approval to replacing the regular May conference of the B.C. Council with the special one which had been discussed.

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[59] Report on Thirteenth Conference (Nov.28,1960) p.4.

The letter of invitation to the special conference contained the following statement:

> Since the national organization, the Canadian Association for Adult Education, is also calling a national conference in October, 1961, to establish new goals and methods of adult education for Canada, it seems proper to precede it with a similar conference for British Columbia. This conference has two ends in view; to provide for the development of Adult Education in B.C. over the next decade and to take part in the national development. We invite all persons interested in, or engaged in problems centering on adult education to attend and participate, or to send representatives.[60]

The conference was held on May 11 and 12 at International House, U.B.C. and was attended by 52 delegates. The preparatory commissions which drafted the papers for study at the conference were restructured somewhat from the suggestions that had been made earlier. The topics of the papers and the chairmen of the commissions were as follows:

1. Role of the School Board	Mr. John Dalgleish
2. Role of the Department of Education	Mr. Wm. Tippett
3. Role of the University	Dr. John Friesen
4. Adult Education and the Economy	Mr. Dean Goard
5. The Social Importance of Adult Education	Dr. Wilbur Hallenbeck (visiting professor of adult education at U.B.C.)
6. The Structure, Financing and Role of the CAAE with Special Reference to British Columbia.	Mr. Alan Thomas[61]

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[60] Unsigned and undated letter of invitation in conference files

[61] There is also among the conference papers a statement on the "Role of the Public Library in Adult Education," but this paper does not seem to have been on the conference agenda.

It does not fall within the purview of this paper to provide a detailed summary of the conclusions reached by the conference concerning the development of adult education in British Columbia. That forms part of the story of adult education in the province, not of the more restricted topic of this paper, the history of the provincial organization. It should be said, however, that the background papers for the conference and the series of recommendations which were based on each and approved by the conference make impressive reading. The degree of thoroughness and detail with which the topics were examined were outstanding. Perhaps the most remarkable of all aspects of the conference was the impressive statement under the title "The Learning Society" which Mr. Alan Thomas gave as the keynote address. It spoke eloquently and with penetration about the issues being examined and the specifics of the B.C. situation. Many of the more general statements of principle in the paper were contained as well in the statement under the same title which Mr. Thomas subsequently delivered at the National Conference.[62]

It was in the latter stages of the conference, after all the other topics had been dealt with, that the delegates turned to the paper on the national and provincial adult education organizations. The paper had been prepared mainly by Mr. Thomas, with the help of a committee made up of Mr. Roy Brookbank (B.C. Electric Co.), Mr. Dan Radford (B.C. Federation of Labor), Mr. Bill Skinner (Y.M.C.A.), Mr. Stan Evans (B.C. Teachers' Federation), and Mrs. Betsy McDonald (B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation). The working paper started out by describing the great expansion taking place in the field of adult education; not just in educational institutions but also in other organizations such as industry, welfare agencies and the military.

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62 For the texts, see "Adult Education in British Columbia: The Next Decade," the Conference Report, pp.2-7; and "National Conference on Adult Education," Conference Report, pp.14-21, published by the CAAE.

> Two problems arise from this: the number of individuals and organizations actively concerned with problems of adult education and adult learning has increased enormously and the range of goals toward which this adult education is directed have proliferated. At the same time, because of this increase of activity in the area of learning the need for firm relationships and co-ordination with agencies of formal adult education as well as among these new interests and endeavours has been accentuated. There is in the opinion of this committee a demonstrable need for liaison and co-ordination which involves matters of political and social policy at all levels of government and other institutions. This need can only be adequately served by an agency which is independent, for these purposes, from the large and active program agencies already in the field.[63]

This last comment of course had reference to the B.C. Adult Education Council, which was identified to some extent with the three founding organizations whose special position was recognized by their having a permanent position on the Executive of the Council.

The report then went on to describe the Council and also the more recently established B.C. Executive of the CAAE. It stated that while this arrangement had "worked well in the past," it no longer adequately met the situation and should be altered. In stating the reasons why they felt a change was needed, the committee revealed that their recommendation was that both existing organizations should be abandoned and that a provincial division of the CAAE should take their place. They said that the existing division of responsibilities between the two groups was confusing to most people, and especially to newcomers to the field. They also felt that more money could be raised in B.C. for organized adult education if a more visible and securely based "center of executive responsibility" for adult education in B.C. was created. The fact that the B.C. Council's activities were restricted largely to conferring prevented the national organization from accomplishing in B.C. what it otherwise might be able to do.

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63 From working paper "Study and Recommendations Regarding the Structure, Financing and Role of the CAAE with Special Reference to British Columbia," p.3.

It was also claimed that as new professional interest groups developed, such as the public school adult education directors, they would more likely join with others in the field if there was an active membership organization such as a provincial division which would invite them to form a section or a standing committee of the organization. The committee felt that there needed to be more cross-fertilization of different institutional interests in the province, that the B.C. Council's two conferences a year were not adequate for this purpose, and that it could be accomplished only by "a provincial organization with executive capacity and national interests." And finally, they stated that a "national policy for adult education" could be accomplished - given the constitutional arrangements of Canada - only if there were "clear lines of responsibility and authority from the provinces to the national body."

The paper then went on to recommend that a provincial division of CAAE be created; that it should solicit funds and members in B.C. on behalf of both the provincial and national bodies; that a percentage of the funds raised in the division would stay in B.C. to meet organizational costs there and the rest go to the national office (some funds would be earmarked to ensure attendance at national meetings); there would be an interlocking membership of the provincial and national executives; and the B.C. division would "explore the need for" carrying out the conferring function which the B.C. Council had been organizing. The committee recognized that these changes could take place only if the CAAE made appropriate adjustments to its constitution and it called upon the national body to do so, suggesting a deadline of six months after the National Conference for bringing this about.

The report then went on to discuss the role and functions of the CAAE, identifying the functions which it should perform. It is perhaps not necessary to go into those details here, but it was abundantly clear from the exposition that if these things were to be accomplished at the provincial level, something very different from the B.C. Council was required. A final series of recommendations

was related to the financing of the CAAE.

All of these recommendations, with no change even in the wording, were endorsed by the conference.

Why did those involved favor the change from the B.C. Council to the provincial division of the national body? Some of the reasons were stated by the committee and have been summarized above. What the report did not mention - but was very much in the minds of several of the participants - was that there was another solution to the whole problem which could have been adopted. There was clearly a widespread feeling among those involved that the time had come for the creation of an adult education organization in the province which could play a more aggressive and flexible role than was possible for the B.C. Council. This was mainly a result of the fact that there had been a rapid and considerable increase in the number of people in the province who identified themselves as being professionally involved in the field of adult education. But this new organization did not necessarily need to be a division of CAAE. It could have been a provincial association which had affiliate - or even no - relationship to the national body.[64] That B.C. opted for a provincial division of CAAE was a result of the fact that several of the key figures in the situation had close ties with the CAAE and wanted to choose the solution which would achieve what was desired at the provincial level and at the same time would do most to strengthen the CAAE as a national organization. Dr. Kidd is of the opinion that Mr. Alan Thomas "took the main lead in recommending a division."[65] Certainly he was one of the key figures. However, other influential persons in the situation also were working to the same end.[66]

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[64] This alternative was later chosen by Saskatchewan and Alberta.

[65] Letter (Aug.26,1969) J. R. Kidd to author.

[66] Letter (Sept.3,1969) Dr. Bert Wales to author.

FORMATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION

The provincial conference having decided that it wanted to create in British Columbia a division of the national organization, the next task became to convince the CAAE that this was a desirable step. There were several factors which contributed to the accomplishment of this objective. There was, first of all, general support among the leading personalities in CAAE affairs for the idea that something had to be done in order to find a satisfactory long-range solution to accommodating the structure of CAAE to the federal nature of the country and the growing interest in adult education in the provinces. (In this connection it should be pointed out that Mr. Thomas, one of the chief architects of the decisions in B.C., moved to Toronto and became the Assistant Executive Director of CAAE in September of 1961.) There was, of course, a disposition on the part of national officers to favor the solutions to the problem which would do most to add to the strength of the national body rather than detract from it. There was, as well, a natural inclination to support and encourage the initiative which was coming from members in British Columbia rather than do anything to frustrate it. Dr. Kidd has described his attitude and that of the CAAE to the B.C. negotiations.

> Of course I hoped, and urged, that there be a continuing tie with the CAAE for several good and obvious reasons. But I was also aware that pressure from Toronto to have the new body become a branch or a unit of a national office might have rebound results and knew that people in B.C. had to decide the form and structure. Obviously if people (in B.C.) would not come up with a good plan, no suitable structure was going to come anyway.[67]

And further:

> I think the record will show that the national office and staff and Executive were always in favor of and encouraging local organization but did not set out conditions under which it should happen, leaving that to local planners and negotiation.

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67 Letter (Aug.26,1969) J.R. Kidd to author.

Although there was a receptive attitude on the part of the national officers towards the initiative being taken in B.C., the proposals coming forward from there obviously had to receive careful study. The stakes for the national body were high. To the extent that any new arrangement entrusted to the provincial organization national concerns for membership, finance and other matters within that provincial jurisdiction, the national body was placing its future in the hands of the regional group. Any constitutional arrangement which was worked out with the B.C. group might well be the pattern for developments in the other provinces in future years.

The B.C. proposals did indeed receive careful study. They were communicated to Toronto in writing shortly after the conclusion of the provincial conference. During the summer and early fall of that year plans were going forward for the National Conference on Adult Education which was scheduled for late October. It was arranged that at the time of the conference discussions of the B.C. proposals would be carried out between B.C. delegates and members of the National Council of the CAAE.

The matter was raised by Dr. Thomas (who had by now earned his doctorate degree) at a CAAE Executive meeting on September 22,1961. The minutes of the meeting indicate that he described briefly the main features of the B.C. proposals and tested the general reaction of the Executive to them. He described the matter as "urgent" and stated that "the B.C. people wanted some indication of CAAE's attitude before they proceeded in their plans."[68] He urged that the national body should not proceed to the National Conference in Ottawa without "some decision on this matter." After some discussion, which revealed the anxiety of at least some of the national officers that the creation of provincial chapters might sap the strength of the national organization, a decision was made to examine the constitution with a view to accommodating provincial bodies. A leading part in the discussions was taken by Mrs. J.F. Carroll, who had recently moved from B.C. to Toronto and had been close to developments in the West. The formal

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68 Minutes of CAAE Executive Sept.22,1961

motion which was passed was moved by Mrs. Carroll.

> That the Executive Committee strongly recommends that the Constitution Committee find ways and means of effectuating a proper relationship between CAAE and possible provincial affiliated bodies.

This was a beginning, but largely avoided the question of the nature of the relationship between the provincial bodies and the national. There was obviously a disposition to meet with the B.C. delegation before going any further.

That meeting took place in three instalments, as it could be fitted in between the formal sessions of the National Conference in Ottawa. There were ten delegates from British Columbia in attendance at the Conference.[69] Four of these, Mrs. H. H. Steen (the President of the B.C. Council), Dr. Friesen, Mr. Bert Curtis and Mr. Selman (all of U.B.C. Extension), were members of the National Council of CAAE and took part in what was recorded in the minutes as an "Informal Meeting of National Council Members" held on October 29 and 31, and November 1 at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. Senator Donald Cameron, the President of the CAAE, was in the chair. After a discussion of other matters, the meeting turned to the proposed changes. The concerns of some present were reflected in Senator Cameron's opening remarks, which stressed the importance of safeguarding, in whatever changes were to be made, "certain prerogatives which were essential to the national center." [70] Mr. Selman served as spokesman for the B.C. delegation and first reviewed the history of developments in B.C. since 1954. He summarized the decisions of the conference the previous spring and outlined the essentials of the relationship which the B.C. group was

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69 From U.B.C., Dr. Coolie Verner, Dr. Friesen and Messrs. Curtis and Selman; J. H. Dalgleish, Director of Adult Education, Victoria School Board; Mr. Stan Evans, B.C. Teachers Federation; Mrs. H.L. Horan, B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation; Mrs. H. H. Steen, representing the B.C. Adult Education Council; Dr. Bert Wales, Vancouver School Board; Professor R. T. Wallace, Victoria College.

70 Minutes of "Informal Meeting of National Council Members" of CAAE Oct.29-Nov.1, 1961.

suggesting: that the provincial body would become responsible for all fund-raising and membership promotion in B.C. on behalf of the CAAE; that the provincial body would retain a portion of the funds raised in order to cover local costs and would send the rest to Toronto; that the provincial organization would become legally incorporated; and that there would be automatic joint membership in the B.C. and the national organization for anyone resident in B.C. who joined either. The minutes indicate the degree of urgency which the B.C. group injected into the discussions.

> Mr.Selman said that the question for the B.C. group was not whether there will be a change, but what kind of a change it will be. They want the best kind of relationship between the group and the national body, and one that would strengthen the national body.

The whole matter was then opened for general discussion, during the course of which the organizational models provided by other national bodies were examined. Spokesmen from the other Western provinces took part, describing developments which were taking place there. In two cases, Alberta (Mr. Duncan Campbell) and Manitoba (Mr. George Boyes) they spoke in favor of the B.C. proposals, provided nothing was done to damage the interests of the national body.

The meeting held on October 31 was devoted to a discussion of the financing of adult education in Canada and also to the perennial financial problems of the CAAE itself. The latter were very much in the minds of all present when considering the B.C. proposals. Would the provincial chapter simply be a drain on the already overstrained financial resources of the CAAE or would it produce at least enough additional funds from B.C. to meet local costs and provide Toronto with as much or more financial support from that province as it was currently receiving? It was perhaps significant that in appointing an ad hoc finance committee to bring in recommendations about the following year's budget, the meeting appointed a representative from B.C. as its chairman.[71]

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[71] Mr. Gordon Selman

When the meeting returned on November 1 to a consideration of the B.C. proposals, a decision came quickly. After a straw vote indicated that there was general agreement on the matter, it was recorded as agreed that:

> the request of the British Columbia group to establish a division of the CAAE be granted in principle, with the details to be worked out by the Constitutional (sic) Committee. The operating formula, or relations with the national office, should be provided for in the constitution with financial agreement as well (sic).

In concluding the discussion of this item, Senator Cameron took pains to point out that any decision made, or arrangement arrived at to accommodate the B.C. group would "in no way establish a precedent for other provinces." This may well have been the spirit of the meeting but did not, in fact, turn out to be the case.[72]

When the Executive Committee next met, in late November, a major portion of the meeting was given over to relations with the B.C. group. A letter from Gordon Selman which was read into the minutes expressed appreciation for the useful discussions at the time of the National Conference, summed up the decisions which had been made, and invited the national body to be represented at a meeting in Vancouver on December 14 which was described as likely to "ring the death knell of the B.C. Adult Education Council, and authorize the organization of a B.C. Division of the CAAE."[73] This was interpreted by the meeting as putting further pressure on the national level to make some firm decisions in the matter. Dr.Thomas

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72 At the time of writing, six provinces have adopted the arrangement which was eventually worked out.

73 Quoted in Minutes of CAAE Executive Nov.20, 1961. The Selman letter was dated Nov.7, 1961.

intervened at once to point out that the B.C. group were strong supporters of the national body and that if prompt action could be decided upon, the Executive would be taking advantage of "a positive opportunity to work with people of good will." There followed a lengthy discussion of possible constitutional and financial relations with the provincial body. In the end, three formal resolutions were passed:

1. The first endorsed the proposal (which had come forward from the Constitution Committee) that a "Study Committee on the Constitution" be appointed to review recent developments and submit "a completely revised constitution at the earliest possible date."

2. The second was

> That one of the terms of reference of the (Committee) be to make provision for some type of ad hoc plan to enable the B.C. group to proceed with their arrangements.

3. The third instructed the Executive Director to appoint the Study Committee.

That the national Executive felt that it was being pressured by the B.C. group was evident from the final paragraph of the minutes covering this discussion. It was suggested that a letter be sent to B.C. pointing out that efforts were being made to work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement; that the machinery had been set in motion to bring about the necessary amendments to the constitution; and expressing the hope

> that the B.C. group will not take separate action which would "freeze" their pattern of organization and perhaps make it impossible for them to stay within the framework being worked out by CAAE.

The discussions at this meeting revealed that there was still a general assumption (as there had been at the provincial conference

the previous May) that the budget of the B.C. group would be established by retaining in the province a fixed percentage of the funds raised there in the name of the national body. This was not to be the final solution.

On December 14, a meeting was held in Vancouver of the combined B.C. Council and B.C. CAAE executives. It was decided, in the light of discussions which had been held at the National Conference, and the communications which had subsequently been received from the CAAE that negotiations with the national body should be continued to the end that a B.C. Division of CAAE could be formally created.

In early March of 1962, the National Council met in Montreal. Mr. Selman was the only B.C. representative in attendance. Mr. Harry Campbell, who had been appointed Chairman of the Study Committee on the Constitution (of which Mr. Selman was the only "corresponding member"), reported that the committee had not as yet completed its work, but had developed a proposed constitutional amendment to accommodate the B.C. group.[74] The intention was to seek approval at this time for changes in the by-laws which would make it possible for British Columbia to go ahead with its plans. If approved by the National Council, the by-law could be circulated in advance of the next annual meeting and be formally approved at that time. There was a prolonged discussion as to the appropriateness of the wording of the by-law in that it made specific reference to B.C. rather than make more general provision for the creation of provincial divisions. Would the passage of this by-law tend to force other provincial and regional groups into this pattern? It was explained that this proposed by-law was an interim measure, designed to provide for a kind of relationship which was desired by the B.C.

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[74] This proposed amendment had earlier been reported to the National Executive on February 14, 1962.

group, and could be changed if later developments indicated that was desirable. The meeting approved the by-law unanimously.[75]

The B.C. group were anxious to get on with the formation of the new organization, having waited since May of the previous year for the national body to make approprate arrangements. When the proposed new by-law was approved by the National Council in March, it was felt to be safe to proceed, on the assumption that the annual meeting would follow suit. The B.C. group therefore held a meeting in May, some weeks before the national annual meeting, at which the provincial Division was formed, subject to the formal approval being given later. There was a feeling among the B.C. group that they needed to act as soon as possible in order to retain the interest of those who had taken part in the earlier conferences - especially the special conference in May, 1961.

At this founding conference of the B.C. Division, the old organization was officially wound up and its assets (such as they were) transferred to the new Division. Dr. Bert Wales of the Vancouver School Board was elected President of the Division, Mr. Gordon Selman and Mr. Stan Evans were elected as Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Margaret Brunette of the Vancouver Public Library as Secretary and Mr. Richard Reeve of the B.C. School Trustees Association as Treasurer.[76]

The by-law next came up for discussion at the National Council meeting on June 1, the day before the annual meeting. Some relatively minor changes in wording were made at that time and

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[75] Minutes of CAAE National Council, March 4, 1962.

[76] At the time of writing, the author has not been able to locate the minutes of this founding meeting. That it was held is confirmed by the report on "Regional Developments and Conferences" which was written by Dr. Alan Thomas for the CAAE Annual Meeting held on June 2, 1962.

re-affirmed at the annual meeting.[77] The report of the Committee on the Constitution, in referring to the by-law, was careful to re-assure the annual meeting that the step that was being proposed was not just to accommodate the B.C. group but was also in the interests of the whole association. It described the by-law as being:

> in the interest of strengthening adult education specifically in British Columbia and generally in Canada as a whole. This by-law was prepared with the expressed intention and understanding that there be but one Canadian Association for Adult Education and that the British Columbia Division is an integral part of it.78

The by-law which was accepted as amended by the annual meeting, in effect placed in the by-laws of the CAAE the constitution of the B.C. Division. It provided for an executive made up of the five officers, President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom became ex officio members of the National Council of the CAAE. The President of the B.C.Division also became a member of the Executive of the CAAE and it was required that he attend at least three meetings a year of the national group. All policy decisions of the B.C. Executive were subject to review and sanction by the national body. Membership categories and fees were to be the same in B.C. and the national and anyone in B.C. who joined either the B.C. Division or the national automatically became a member of both. There were the customary clauses in the by-law about membership and financial records, frequency of meetings, and staff.

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77 See Minutes of CAAE National Council, June 1, 1962.

78 Report contained in "Annual Reports" presented to the CAAE Annual Meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, June 2, 1962 pp.33-35.

The matter of financial relations between the two levels of the organization had perhaps been the chief source of concern throughout the negotiations. A major section of the by-law was devoted to clarifying this matter. It has already been pointed out that the assumption earlier had been that the B.C. Division would raise what money it could for the CAAE in the province, would retain an agreed-upon percentage of it, and send the rest to the national office. It was subsequently decided, however, that it might be more in accord with the general concept of the Division being an integral part of the national body if all funds raised in B.C. were sent directly to National and the Division be granted an agreed upon budget. It was assumed that the size of the B.C. Division's budget might bear some general relationship to the amount of money raised in B.C. - (it was hoped that the Division would increase revenues in B.C. to the extent that the National would continue to receive at least as much from the province as it had before - over and above the amount of the B.C. budget) - but under this new formula there was to be no direct or automatic relationship between what B.C. raised and the size of their budget. The amount of the budget granted to the B.C. Division would be negotiated each year. The only change in the by-law which was made at the annual meeting and which was of any great significance had to do with a clause which indicated what would happen to the B.C. Division's budget if the CAAE nationally did not reach its financial goal in any given year. The by-law as originally drafted had left the matter rather vague. This had been amended by the National Council (and re-affirmed by the Annual Meeting) to the effect that what the B.C. Division would receive under those circumstances would be "apportioned on the basis of the amount collected in British Columbia" (thus re-introducing the idea of a direct relationship between what B.C. raised and received). However, after some further discussion about the principle involved, this was changed again to the effect that if there was a shortfall, the amount which the B.C. Division received would be re-apportioned, "taking into account the amount collected by the B.C. Division and by the Association as a whole." [79]

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[79] Minutes of CAAE Annual Meeting, June 2, 1962, p.3.

The final matter which should be referred to had to do with the definition in the by-law of the functions of the B.C. Division. They were set out as follows:

Function

The function of the B.C. Division shall be to maintain the Constitution and by-laws of the CAAE in representation of the interest of adult education everywhere in Canada and in particular to:

a. provide special focus and leadership for organizations and individuals who are active in adult education in British Columbia

b. provide information services and consultation for organizations and individuals interested and active in adult education in British Columbia

c. to represent the CAAE in negotiations with official and unofficial bodies regarding matters related to adult education in British Columbia

d. to provide initiative with respect to the training and development of adult educators, voluntary and professional, in British Columbia

e. to increase and diversify the financial basis of the CAAE in British Columbia

f. to increase and diversify the membership of the CAAE in British Columbia

g. to carry out from time to time, special projects and research, testing and publishing that may be appropriate.[80]

With the passage of this by-law at the CAAE Annual Meeting of 1962, the change from the B.C. Adult Education Council to the B.C. Division of CAAE was formally completed.

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80 Minutes of CAAE Annual Meeting, June 2, 1962, p.3.

CONFLUENCE OF PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INFLUENCES

One of the most interesting aspects of the events described in this paper is the extent to which local, regional and national factors had a determining effect on developments in British Columbia and how, in turn, the decisions made in B.C. influenced the direction of developments elsewhere.

As has been pointed out, the "continuing conference" on adult education which began in 1954 was at least partly a result of earlier developments in Manitoba and suggestions from the national organization. The organizational form was very similar to that of the Joint Planning Commission at the national level. When the B.C. Adult Education Council was formed in 1957, the nature of the relationship it was to have with the CAAE was worked out on the basis of consultation involving the whole Western region. The notion of "affiliation" which was developed at that time - and which came about largely because the B.C. group was pushing hard for some satisfactory resolution of the matter - was incorporated into the constitution of the CAAE and had an influence on the nature of developments elsewhere in Canada. The most obvious example, however, of events in B.C. having influenced the national organization came in 1961 and 1962 when the B.C. group, having decided that it wished to create a provincial division of the national body (rather than an affiliated provincial association) had to sell the idea to the CAAE. When this was done and the change incorporated into the by-laws of the national body, it established a pattern which was subsequently adopted by five other provinces.

Canada is a large country, but until recently there were relatively few people taking responsibility for providing leadership in the field of adult education. During the decade covered by this paper, adult education in our country was a "small world." There was, therefore, quite close and full communication among the leading adult educators across the country. No small part of this

was due to the energy and resourcefulness of the staff of the CAAE - especially Dr. Roby Kidd and Mr. Gordon Hawkins during this period - who travelled back and forth across the country carrying news of colleagues and program ideas from one region to another. The meetings of the CAAE provided another means of communication, and it would appear that the biennial Western Regional Conferences were particularly important during this period.

It should also be pointed out that an important factor in working out the organizational problems faced during this "decade of development" was the stature on the national scene of certain of the leaders in British Columbia. The fact that these men and women - Mrs. Rex Eaton, Mrs. Pearl Steen, Dr. John Friesen, Mr. Graham Bruce, Dr. Bert Wales and others - were known to be able leaders and active supporters of the CAAE undoubtedly made it easier for them to bring about changes involving the structure and security of the national body than if this had not been the case.

With the creation of the British Columbia Division of the CAAE in 1962, the relations between adult educators in this province and the national organization entered a new phase. Managing the new enterprise was obviously going to make altered and greater demands on those in B.C. who were responsible for carrying the plans forward.

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SOURCES

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1. Canadian Association for Adult Education

Because of the close relationship - especially in the latter part of the period covered by this study - between the national level of the CAAE and the B.C. group, much of the most useful information was to be found at the national office of the CAAE in Toronto. These included: the minutes of annual meetings and especially of meetings of the Executive Committee and National Council for the period 1953 to 1963; the reports of the Western Regional CAAE conferences of 1953, 1955, 1957 and 1959, and related papers; and the file of the Association's journal, which during this period was called Food For Thought. Much useful information and interpretation of events was provided by Dr. J. Roby Kidd, who was Director of the CAAE throughout the period (up to May 1961).

2. Reports of B.C. Adult Education Conferences

An important source of information for this study was the complete file of conference reports which was available in the Extension Department. The correspondence carried on during the period has not survived, but a few key items, such as the background papers for the conference in May, 1961, were available.

3. Correspondence and Interviews with Persons in B.C.

A number of persons have been consulted who were actively involved in the events described in the study. Those who were particularly helpful were:

Mr. Graham Bruce - formerly Director of Adult Education for the Vancouver School Board

Mr. Knute Buttedahl - Extension Department, U.B.C.

Mr. Stan Evans - Assistant Executive Secretary, B.C. Teachers Federation

Dr. John K. Friesen - formerly Director of Extension Department, U.B.C.

Mrs. Mary Murray - Executive Secretary, B.C. Division of CAAE

Mr. James Panton - Director, Community Programs Branch of the B.C. Department of Education

Dr. Bert Wales - Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Director of Adult Education, Vancouver School Board

Mr. Laurie Wallace - Deputy Provincial Secretary and formerly Director of the Community Programs Branch of the B.C. Department of Education